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SELECTIONS FROM THE DIARY OF CHRISTIANA LEACH, OF KINGSESSING, 1765–1796.

CONTRIBUTED BY ROBERT H. HINCKLEY.

[The original manuscript diary of Mrs. Leach is still preserved, but unfortunately a few leaves prior to 1765 were destroyed by a descendant, who was unacquainted with the German language, in which it is written.]

1765. Feb. 23.—Received the first letter from my brother in England, stating that he was well received by the King and Queen and sometimes conversed with them for two hours about all kinds of curiosities.

Nov. 2nd.—Born, our son Henry at 1 o'clock, and daughter Catharine at 3 o'clock in the afternoon (twins) in the sign of the waterman.

1766. November 3rd.—My brother William returned from London with Captain Marshall, happy with the title of Botanist to the King and Queen, to our great joy.

November 23rd.—My brother left Philadelphia for Carolina.

1767. April 1st.—Myself, John and the whole family moved again to Kingsessing to fathers.

January 13th.—My brother departed from Carolina for London with many barrels filled with plants.

March 20th.—Born, our son, Joseph Leech, at 12 o'clock at night, in the sign of the goat.

November 6th.—My brother arrived well and hearty from London.

November 17th.—My brother left Philadelphia for Carolina to get more plants.

1769. March 3rd.—My brother arrived again from Carolina after a voyage of twenty-nine days, well and hearty, with 19 boxes filled with plants and roots of great variety.

Nov. 5th.—My brother sailed with Captain Falconer for London with many casks and boxes filled with plants.

1770. Aug. 26.—My brother arrived from London well and hearty.

1771. April 16th.—All our children were vaccinated by Dr. Paschal; Billy, John, Max, Henry and Joseph got over it very well, but Betsey had a sore eye, and Katy got the inflammation in her mouth, and an abscess eat away her chin and lips, and all her teeth fell out, and while she got well, she is disfigured.

Nov. 13th.—My brother sailed again with Captain Falconer from Philadelphia for London, with a quantity of plants.

1772. Sept. 17th.—My father bought of Samuel Powell, 40 acres of woodland for £400, cash.

December 30th.—My brother and his wife, whom he brought from England, arrived here safe and sound to our great joy.

1776. June 6th.—My sister, Catharine, married Jacob Hoffman.

August 6th.—My son, William Leach, said farewell to us all, to go with Captain Rudolph's Kingsessing Militia to Amboy. God keep him safe!

August 13th.—My son, John Leech, and my brother-in-Law, Jacob Hoffman, said farewell to us all and have gone as Militia with Captain Gibson to Amboy, at 50 shillings a month. God be with them; the Lord's will be done!

September 17th.—All our dear ones came back from Camp safe and sound. God be thanked!

1777. May 1st.—Born, my nephew, William Hoffman, at nine o'clock in the evening.

May 15th.—My son, William Leech, went in the Militia with Captain Young, to Bristol. God be with him!

July 8th.—My son, William Leech, came back from Camp well and healthy, he was sick in Camp for six days, but is well again;—Thank God!

September 11th.—In a battle between our army and the English at the Brandywine, our army was defeated and had to retreat.

September 26th.—The English entered Philadelphia.

October 4th.—A bloody battle was fought near Germantown between our army and the English; although our men fought well, they lost the field leaving their dead.

October 16th.—An English General, named Burgoyne, was captured with his whole army by our brothers at Saratoga.

October 21st.—In a battle at Red Bank, a Hessian General named Donop was killed.

November 21st.—My dear Mother, Elizabeth Young, departed this life at 4 O'clock in the afternoon, aged 66 years, and buried Sunday, the 23rd in Kingsessing, in our burial ground, in a troublesome King's time.

1778. March 18th.—A party of English soldiers came into our house at 10 o'clock, at night, and took my brother-in-law Hoffman and my two sons, William and John, prisoners to Philadelphia, and put them into the new prison, to our great fear. A sad and troublesome time, but God will protect us.

March 28th.—A party of rascals came to our house, sent by Galloway, and took our cattle and plundered the house, and also took father with them to the old prison. Our loss is at least £400. My sister and I have passed many anxious hours.

April 16th.—Father was released from prison on parole, to remain in town.

April 25th.—Jacob, Billy and John, came from prison home. John sick and miserable.

June 18th.—The English have gone from the city to Jersey. Father came home.

June 30th.—Battle at Monmouth, between our army and the English.

August 15th.—My son, John, apprenticed to a wagon-maker for one year and ten months. I must furnish clothes and a suit at the end of the time.

October 9th.—Born, my nephew, Jacob Hoffman, at one o'clock in the afternoon.

1780. June 15th.—My son, John, home from his apprenticeship, and began to work on his own account.

October 15th.—My son, Maximilian, apprenticed to a Blacksmith for four years, his Master to furnish clothes six months and a suit at the end of the apprenticeship.

1781. March 6th.—Born my niece, Betsy Hoffman, two o'clock at night. Peace is established this year between England and America. God be thankful for this peace.

1784. April 4th.—My son Henry is apprenticed in town to a Blacksmith for two years and seven months. I have to furnish clothes and a suit at the end of his apprenticeship.

October 15th.—My son, Maxy, ended his apprenticeship and remains with his Master as journeyman.

December 6th.—My son, William, departed for Carolina over-land.

1785. March 16th.—My brother, William Young, was drowned in a river called Gun Powder Falls, ninety miles from his home. He remained seven weeks three days in the water before he was found, and was buried on the bank. And this was my brother's end, he died honorably in pursuit of his botanical business, aged 43 years. God's will be done!

April 13th.—Born my niece, Katy Hoffman between eight and nine o'clock in the morning. My dear and only sister, Catharine Hoffman died in childbirth, aged forty years. She was buried on the 15th in our family burying ground, wept for and mourned by all the friends and neighbors of the family.

May 28th.—My dear and worthy father, William Young, died between three and four o'clock in the afternoon. He exchanged the earthly life for an eternal rest, aged 73 years. He became sick May 15th, but remained about and died in his clothes from apoplexy, and was buried the 30th, accompanied to his rest by many friends at Kingsessing, to the family burying ground.

August 16th.—John and Max departed for Gun Powder Falls to find my brother's grave.

September 12th.—My son John and my brother's wife departed in a carriage with a driver and three horses for Gun Powder Falls, to bring back my brother's body, which they

did on the 16th, and we buried him also in our family burying ground.

1786. June 15th.—My son John Leech has bought the place at Kingsessing, belonging formerly to my brother, for £175, to be paid for in six years, and has moved on it with his apprentice.

July 1st.—My son Joseph bound to John to learn his trade for two years and nine months. I am to furnish his clothes and suit at the end of his apprenticeship.

July 9th.—My brother's widow sailed from Philadelphia for Dublin, Ireland, with her second husband, whom she married three weeks ago, named Mathias Newton Smith, an Irishman, born in Londonderry, a sailor of the ship, Lady Hill, Captain Campbell.

July 27th.—Maxy leased a lot on John's place in Kingsessing for fifteen years, at £3 a year, and built a blacksmith shop on the Street, and worked in it for the first time on this date.

September 26th.—My son Maxy celebrated his wedding with Betsy Haest. May God guide them in wisdom and that they may walk in His ways!

October 12th.—My son, Maxy, moved with his dear wife to Kingsessing into his grandmother's room.

November 7th.—My son Henry completed his apprenticeship with Jacob Egfelt, and went on the 17th to his brother Maxy to work as journeyman at six dollars a month, including breakfast.

1787. April 2nd.—In the afternoon between 4 and 5 o'clock, was born my first grandson and Mary's first son. We gave him the name Isaac Leech. God grant that he may grow up to fear Him and walk in His ways!

1789. March 21st.—My son Joseph Leech finished his trade, and engaged with his brother John Leech as journeyman wagon-maker, at $5.00 per month.

March 30th.—All of our children became sick with measles and by the 12th of April they were all well again. My sister's children, Maxy Leech, his wife and child also had

the measles at the same time, but are now all well again. Thank God!

1789. May 9th.—John Leech began to keep house again with Lucy as his housekeeper.

August 13th.—My daughter, Betsy Leech, celebrated her wedding with John Furlong, an Irishman. God be with them and give them wisdom and understanding, so that they may live according to His will, and that they may be saved in the life eternal!

August 20th.—Betsy, with her husband, John Furlong, moved from here to their own place in Maple Township, Chester County, accompanied to their home by all the relatives, neighbors and friends.

1790. August 28th.—Born my first grand-daughter and Maxy Leech's first daughter, between 7 and 8 o'clock in the morning, and named Christiana Leech. God grant that Christiana in name, may be Christian in deed, and become a worthy follower of Christ!

December 9th.—Born, my grandson, John Furlong, my daughter Elizabeth Furlong's first son, between seven and eight o'clock in the evening. May God give him wisdom and understanding to enable him to study the Heavenly Philosophy and that he may become a child of God!

1791. May 5th.—My son, John Leech, celebrated his wedding with Polly Blum, youngest daughter of George Blum, of Philadelphia, and on the 10th day of May, John came after his wife and was accompanied to his place in Kingsessing by all his friends. Among them were all my children and my three grandchildren. God bless them with wisdom that they may live in His honor!

October 9th.—Born my grandson, John Smith. May he be protected by God the Father!

1792. August 11th.—Born, John Leech's first son, who died, having lived only 24 hours. We buried him in our family burying ground at Kingsessing.

September 8th.—Born my grandson, Thomas Furlong, at 3 o'clock in the morning.

December 26th.—Born my granddaughter, Molly Leech, Maxy Leech's second daughter. I wish her a virtuous life, that she may grow up to honor God!

1793. September 9th.—My eldest son, William Leech, died at 7 o'clock in the morning, of yellow fever, at the age of 37 years and two months, after a sickness of five days. Many people in the town died of this disease.

There died in the town of Philadelphia, between the 1st of August, and November 9th, 4031 people of yellow fever or pestilential fever; it bears a great resemblance to that dreadful disease, the plague. 17,000 inhabitants moved out of the City, and at Bush Hill was the Hospital; over 300 children lost father and mother, and were placed in one house to be cared for.

November 27th.—Born, my grandson, William Leech, son of John Leech. God guide him in his troublesome pilgrimage!

1794. March 25th—My son John Leech moved from his home in Kingsessing to Elbow lane in town, to keep tavern.

April 3rd.—John Furlong sold his home in Maple for £300 cash, and bought a house and lot in town for £160 and moved into the same.

September 30th.—My son, Joseph Leech, has gone with the Blockley and Kingsessing Militia under Captain Smith, to the western counties of Pennsylvania, after the whiskey rebels as they call them. God be with him!

November 29th.—Joseph Leech has returned home from the Western counties well and hearty.

1795. January 18th.—Born my granddaughter, Deborah Leech, Maxy Leech's third daughter. May God be her guide and lead her into his ways!

1796. March 24th.—My son, John Leech moved away from town back to his home.

May 10th.—My son John Leech moved again into town on Market Street to keep a tavern at the sign of the Black Horse, at a rent of £300 a year.